



1743

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:  
**J. Michael RAMSEY**

U.S. Application No.: **09/909,638**

Filed: July 20, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
PERFORMING MICROFLUIDIC  
MANIPULATIONS FOR CHEMICAL  
ANALYSIS

) Group Art Unit: 1743  
)  
) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
)  
) Attorney Docket No.:  
) 1875-ESID-1401-X-CON-1  
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Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Before calculation of the filing fee, and prior to the issuance of a first Official Action, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please add the following new claims:

2. A method of controlling movement of a fluid in a microscale channel, comprising:  
flowing a first fluid material through a first microchannel portion; and  
constricting flow of the first fluid material in the first microchannel portion, by  
concomitantly introducing additional fluid into the first channel portion from second  
and third microchannel portions, the second and third channel portions connecting to  
opposing sides of the first channel portion.